

[9 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

review the project features and re-submit after complying with the comments of Central Electricity Authority/Central Water Commission.

Revised project report of Sindol H.E. Project ($5 \times 20 + 5 \times 20 + 6 \times 20 = 320$ MW) submitted in March, 1994 was returned in July, 1996 with a request to obtain the concurrence/agreement with the riparian States viz. Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for consideration of the project for techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority.

Purchase of Chinese Arms by Militants

***258. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH:**

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken to persuade the Bhutan Government to hand over the ULFA and Bodo militants who are procuring Chinese weapons from the International arms market in Tibet with the connivance of officials of the Bhutan Government; and

(b) since when such activities are going on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The Royal government of Butan has been sensitised on our security concerns at various levels. They have assured that they would not allow their territory to be misused against the interests of India. There are no confirmed reports to suggest that ULFA and Bodo militants have procured Chinese weapons from Tibet.

Electrification of Vanwasi and Adivasi Villages

***259. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:** Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Vanwasi and Adivasi villages that were electrified against the target of 415 villages during 1999-2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that performance is slow;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Non-Conventional Energy Sources can be very useful to electrify the villages not connected to the grid; and

(e) if so, what is the Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) Against the Rural Electrification Corporation's target of electrification of 415 tribal villages, 476 tribal villages have been electrified during 1999-2000. State-wise details of electrification of tribal villages is given in the Statement (*see below*).

In order to expanded RE programme in tribal villages and dalit bastis, Government has recently decided to grant interest subsidy of Rs. 16.67 crores for electrification of 415 tribal villages and 2440 dalit bastis in the country during the year 2000-01. Government has decided to set up a Group of Ministers (GOM) to review all the existing schemes relating to electrification of tribal villages, dalit bastis and benefiting other weaker sections and suggest modifications for accelerating the pace of electrification, so that they enjoy the benefits of electrification to the same extent as other areas/sections of the population.

(d) and (e) Non-Conventional Energy Sources such as Solar Photovoltaics, Small Hydro Power (Upto 3 MW) and Biomass Gassifiers etc. are very useful for generation of decentralised electricity in rural areas and remote villages not connected to the grid. A number of unelectrified villages/households have been electrified by providing lighting through various Non-Conventional

Energy Sources in the country. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources also provides fiscal and financial incentives for implementation of its various programmes.

Statement

ELECTRIFICATION OF TRIBAL VILLAGES DURING 1999-2000

Sl. No.	States	Target	Achievement
1.	Andhra pradesh	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	62	25
3.	Assam	20	—
4.	Bihar	—	—
5.	Goa	—	—
6.	Gujarat	—	—
7.	Haryana	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—
10.	Karnataka	—	—
11.	Kerala	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	110	44
13.	Maharashtra	—	—
14.	Manipur	60	11
15.	Meghalaya	—	—
16.	Mizoram	3	4
17.	Nagaland	—	33
18.	Orissa	100	250
19.	Punjab	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	50	105
21.	Sikkim	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	—	—
23.	Tripura	10	4
24.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—
25.	West Bengal	—	—
26.	Delhi	—	—
TOTAL (States)		415	476